

SAVED FROM MAD HOUSE

A. D. Tucker of Florahome, Will not go to Chathoochee

THANKS TO WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS

And the too Great Anxiety of His Friends (?)—God Save the Mark!

The News of last week made mention of the commitment to the insane asylum at Chathoochee, of Mr. A. D. Tucker of Florahome.

He was pronounced insane by an inquisition held before Judge M. L. Cox on Tuesday, February 25th. The committee appointed by the judge to determine his mental condition was composed of Dr. A. M. Steen, Justice of the Peace C. I. Rowton and Deputy Sheriff R. L. Kennerly. These men held that he was insane. There was nothing else for Judge Cox to do but commit him to the asylum.

The inquisition was regular in form and according to the statute. The statute provides that if five persons make affidavit that a person is so insane as to be incapable of self-control, then the county judge shall appoint two citizens and a practicing physician who constitute an examining committee. The committee examine the supposedly insane person and other witnesses and make report. If the judge is satisfied from the report that the person is insane he shall so adjudge and make order to the sheriff to deliver him to the asylum authorities. The act also provides that the person may contest if he so desires and have witnesses summoned in his behalf.

There is no appeal in cases of this kind. Mr. Tucker, through his attorneys Walter M. Davis and Pat. H. Odum, filed a petition before Circuit Court Commissioner Henry Strunz, asking that a writ of habeas corpus be granted. This petition charged that A. D. Tucker was being deprived of his liberty without due process of law; that he was adjudged insane without being given a chance to prepare for the inquisition or to summons witnesses or employ an attorney to defend him; that the inquisition was hastily and summarily conducted; that he is detained and about to be deported to the asylum against his will; that he was denied a guardian for his persons, he having means; and that he has no right of appeal.

On the grounds mentioned in the petition Commissioner Strunz signed the writ of habeas corpus, and Mr. Tucker was brought before him Thursday morning for preliminary examination. The commissioner, however, did not make any order, preferring to hear the case on its merits, which was done.

The examination before the commissioner brought out some interesting side lights. Mr. Tucker is acknowledged to be one of the ablest men in the Florahome colony. He has been a "kicker"—that is to say he has stood for his rights. In doing this he has incurred the enmity of the powers. Because he had been imposed upon by toughs he remonstrated. Then he was persecuted. He was insulted by a gang of hoodlums and able-bodied men stood by and saw the old man insulted and laughed. Mr. Tucker is old and of highly nervous temperament. He became ill on account of his ill treatment. While in bed he raved some. He was ill in this way three or four times during the past six months. The testimony showed that his spells lasted from three to four days. They always occurred at his own home. He never attacked any one on the street—never was ill on the street, and yet able-bodied men 20 years his junior swore that they were afraid of him.

It was charged at the examination that he was gotten into town and into the court house for the inquisition by means of trickery, and that each and every man who signed the affidavit asking for the inquisition was personally unfriendly to him. That there was some ground for the charge was apparent by the manner in which the examination before the commissioner was conducted. It is a rare thing for disinterested parties to go down in their pockets and hire an able lawyer to prosecute a man for insanity. That is what was done in this case, and the men who paid the attorney were the men who claimed to be "friends" of Mr. Tucker. They may have been his friends, but if the poor old man can be delivered from them in future his cup of joy should be full.

The case was not completed until after 10 o'clock at night, when Mr. Tucker was discharged.

The airing which this case received before Commissioner Strunz will have good effect in this community if it but demonstrates that there is yet some show of liberty under the constitution in Putnam county. Chucking a man into the insane asylum in order to get rid of him has been rendered difficult. The News states this and at the same time casts no reflection upon the honorable court having original jurisdiction. That court acted strictly within the law. What reflection is intended is aimed at the coterie of bandits who swore, in order to carry their point, that a whole town stood in jeopardy of making a flying leap, hell bent for election, if one feeble

old man who sometimes has spells was allowed his liberty.

The spectacle was presented of several citizens of Florahome, any one of whom showed more of the symptoms of insanity than the accused, spending a day and a night in this city in a mad effort to place an old man in a mad house whose only chargeable offense consisted in getting nervously ill after submitting to a series of damnable persecutions, any one of which would be considered sufficient to make a Methodist class leader for the time being forget his ecclesiastical standing.

Aldermanic Nominations.

The democratic caucuses for the purpose of making aldermanic nominations and electing delegates to tonight's city convention were held in the various wards last Monday night. In some of the wards, notably the 1st, 2d, and 7th, there was some show of competition for the honors, and the results seemed to be cause for much hilarity on the streets next day. The hilarity was confined largely to the followers of successful candidates. From what the News could gather there seems to be two factions in the democracy of these wards—the Jennings and anti-Jennings factions—but just why any one should want to ring the gentleman from Tallahassee into the ward politics of Palatka is not made so clear. According to our information it was the Jennings faction that "shot the chute." The following are the nominations.

In the First ward B. I. Gay was nominated over Capt. H. D. Montmolin by a vote of 29 to 15.

In the Second ward the contest was between Arthur R. Cartmel and B. J. Grooms. Cartmel was nominated by a vote of 28, to 10 for Grooms.

There was no contest in the Third ward, and Capt. Jos. D. Points and Robert James were nominated without opposition.

In Ward Four, S. J. Kennerly and A. Usina were nominated without contest.

There were three candidates in the Fifth ward, viz., Wm. Ivers, Walter Strange and Marts Kohl. The first two were taken, and the other, left.

The Sixth ward is a fast black precinct and there was consequently no democratic nomination.

In Ward seven T. O. Livingston was nominated over H. A. Davis by a vote of 18 to 8.

A Big Deal.

One of the largest business transactions ever consummated in this city was brought to a head last Saturday when the Wilson Cypress Company of this city purchased of F. S. Hodges of Green Cove Springs and H. A. Hodges of Satsuma Heights all their standing cypress timber.

The timber is all located on lands in Putnam and St. Johns counties and the amount, while not definitely stated, is known to be upwards of 30,000,000 feet.

For this timber the Wilson Cypress company paid the Messrs. Hodges \$125,000. It is the biggest timber deal made in this city in many years. The purchase does not include the mill of H. A. Hodges & Co., at Buffalo Bluff, but it means that that mill will cease to cut cypress logs.

Mr. H. A. Hodges is authority for the statement that his company will now engage exclusively and extensively in pine lumber, and that within a year it will have in operation back of San Mateo one of the largest pine mills in the country. The Hodges' own thousands of acres of valuable pine timber land and their future operations will be on extensive scale.

Shell for Sidewalks. The Woman's Fortnightly club has procured a lighter load of shell which will be disposed of at actual cost to parties in the city who want to repair or build sidewalks. The shell was donated to the ladies by Judge Vertrees and is being lightered to the city free of cost by Mr. A. E. Wilson. The only cost to the ladies consists of the handling—loading and unloading. This amount those who apply for the shell are expected to pay pro rata, and this will be so little that all can avail themselves of the opportunity to improve walks.

Many of the sidewalks in Palatka are in a deplorable condition, and it would seem that the opportunity thus afforded for their betterment should meet with the universal cooperation of citizens. All information concerning the shell and orders for it can be left at F. C. Cochrane's book store.

Bishop Weed Will Preach.

Next Sunday will occur the annual visitation of Rt. Rev. Edwin Gardner Weed, Bishop of Florida, to St. Marks Episcopal church. The order of services for the day will be as follows: Early celebration of Holy Communion 7:30 a. m. Morning prayer and sermon by the bishop, 11 a. m. Evening prayer and confirmation 7:30 p. m. All are cordially invited. Bishop Weed is an eloquent and scholarly divine, and there will undoubtedly be a general desire on the part of the people to hear him.

Meeting of Library Association.

There will be a meeting of the Palatka Public Library association for the annual election of officers, at the Library Room, Saturday, March 8, at 4 p. m. All the members of the association are earnestly requested to be present at this meeting.

STEPHENS WITHDRAWS

From Mayoralty Contest

THIS MAKES PLAIN SAILING FOR DR. GEORGE E. WELCH.

The question as to who will be the next mayor of Palatka has been settled by the withdrawal of Mayor L. C. Stephens who authorizes the News to state that he will not be a candidate before tonight's city convention.

All day yesterday it looked very much like a stand-off between Mr. Stephens and Dr. Welch. A close canvass showed the delegation to be pretty evenly divided. At a late hour last night, however, Mr. Stephens, knowing that the contest would be close and feeling that as he had already been honored by two terms in office, came to the conclusion that he could not afford to engage in what some might construe to be an unseemly contest for further honors. Hence his determination to withdraw in favor of his opponent.

Among local politicians the action of Mr. Stephens is stated to be an example of political magnanimity which is exceedingly rare. By some it is said that he already had the doctor beaten. If this is so it was certainly an unprecedented act. It will be followed by a "whooping harmony" in the local democracy.

Mr. Stephens has made Palatka a good mayor. He will retire from office with honor, and if the News mistakes not, he will be heard from again in politics, in which event he will have a following.

Church Social.

Next Tuesday night the Ladies Aid society of St. James M. E. church will give a social at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Steltz, (Mrs. Haughtons.) An interesting programme will be rendered. Refreshments will be served. An admission fee of ten cents will be charged at the door. It is hoped many will attend and enjoy a pleasant evening.

Will Arrive Home Sunday.

Hon. Robt. W. Davis, member of congress from this district, together with his daughter, Miss Nellie, will arrive from Washington Sunday. Mr. Davis has important legal business demanding his attention in Tallahassee and he is simply taking advantage of the occasion to pay his home town a visit. He will be in the state from ten days to two weeks.

A Sixty Dollar Haul.

When the office of N. J. Tilghman & Sons was opened for business Wednesday morning it was noticed that the safe door was slightly ajar. Examination showed that sixty dollars of the money known to have been in the safe the night before was missing. Other money in the safe had not been touched. The lock was unharmed.

Mr. John Q. Tilghman is not positive that he locked the safe the night before, but thinks he did. Three men were under arrest yesterday, but as there was no evidence to hold them they were let go. They were of the genus tramp and had been seen about the mill the day before. Mystery, but money's gone.

New Sunday School Books.

The Young People's Society of the Presbyterian Sunday school have just added a considerable number of books to the library of the school. These books are all new, fresh and attractive. Some of them are among the latest issued from the religious press. There are some choice historical stories; and these are books suited to all ages, tastes and grades, for children, young people, boys and girls and for teachers and parents. And a very pleasing experience to the young workers is, not only the knowledge that they have new books to enjoy, but that the new possessions are the fruit of their labors.

The County Commissioners.

The regular meeting of the board of county commissioners was held at the court house on Tuesday, President A. S. Willard in the chair and a full board present. The usual bills were presented, ordered paid and the usual routine work transacted.

A petition for a bicycle path on the public road from Palatka to Peniel was granted.

A proposition from John A. Crosby to sell the county 300 copies of the Homeseeker number of his paper—San Mateo Item—was accepted. The papers are to be distributed by the Commissioner of Agriculture. The paper mentioned contains much valuable information regarding Putnam county, and if properly placed ought to result in good to the county. The paper is well illustrated.

The delinquent tax list for the year 1901 was awarded to the Times-Herald of this city. Under the recent ruling of the comptroller the list of lands to be advertised this year will be small.

M. M. Moore was appointed Rice Creek bridge tender for one year from April 1st, next, at \$18.00 per month.

Quick Sales the Order.

The hustling John T. Bond is engaged in selling out the W. C. Snow furniture stock. The estate must be wound-up, and goods are being slashed. People who are in need of furniture can get some big bargains during this sale.

City Happenings and Personal Mention.

Miss Anna Bard, of Norwalk, was a visitor to the city Tuesday.

Col. R. W. Bard of Nashua was a visitor in town last Saturday.

Dr. Frank McRae, of Melrose, was transacting business in town Saturday.

The county school board held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday.

Mr. W. C. Cameron, of Sisco, was transacting business in the city last week.

John H. Livingston, of Hollister, was greeting friends in this city Tuesday.

A large and attractive sign has been placed on the liquor store of J. D. Ringham.

Mrs. E. C. Waldron, of Welaka, was a shopper in this city one day last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Holmes Erwin, prominent people from Pomona, were in the city last Saturday.

Gay Bros. have installed a Troemner ball-bearing coffee mill in their down-town establishment.

Miss Georgia Johnson, principal of the Crescent City school, was a visitor to Palatka last Saturday.

Thos. McRae, of Jacksonville, was paying his respects to a host of Palatka friends one day last week.

The Mellon residence at the corner of Kirkland and Emmett streets is receiving a new coat of paint.

Mrs. Estelle Rogers, a prominent business woman of Fernandina, spent several days in the city last week.

The ladies of the Fortnightly club will give a musicale at the home of Mrs. Martin Griffin Friday afternoon.

R. E. Neek went to East Palatka the first part of the week to take photographic views for parties at that place.

Mrs. L. A. Smith left yesterday for DeLand and Sanford at which places she will spend a week with relatives and friends.

S. W. Rowley the San Mateo cigar manufacturer and grower of fine tobacco, was a business visitor in the city on Tuesday.

Mr. J. B. Donnelly entertained a number of his friends at a birthday supper last Friday evening, at his home on Laurel street.

Miss Anna Leddy, the trimmer at Miss Lucas' millinery parlors, has returned from a month's trip to New York, and is again at the hotel Saratoga.

Mr. James Upshure, representing J. J. Johnson of Baltimore, was in town Tuesday. Mr. Upshure is formerly from Snow Hill, Md., and a fellow townsman of Mr. M. M. Vickers.

The Palatka branch of the state turpentine operators association held its regular monthly meeting at the court house yesterday afternoon. Some twenty-five operators were present.

J. H. Wylie, the nurseryman of Interlachen, was in town Wednesday. Mr. Wylie says the orange trees in his section are almost in full bloom and a good crop is expected next season.

Mr. W. W. Sparks of Indiana, Mr. Smith of Fitzgerald, Ga., and J. O. Speck of this city, composed a party that went gunning for ducks on the St. Johns river last Friday. They succeeded in killing 27 birds.

Rev. and Mrs. Douglas Matthews are spending the day at San Mateo, the guests of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Clark. Rev. Mr. Matthews will hold service at the Episcopal church there this evening.

Messrs. Richard Abplanalp, Robt. James and Roy E. Buky, and Messdames E. C. Jackson, Isabella Buky and Miss Hattie Buky, composed a pleasant party that went to St. Augustine the first part of this week.

There are several cases of scarlet fever in the city, most of which, however, are of a mild type. The cases so far do not number over a half dozen and are all doing well. The cases are not confined to children.

The revival service at the First Baptist church is still in progress with nightly meetings and a growing interest. The meetings will be continued until Sunday. Last Sunday night three members were received for baptism.

Mr. W. E. Smith, Mrs. Mary M. Walcott, of Dover, Mrs. Henry Walcott of Harrington, and Dr. and Mrs. John A. Klump, of Williamsport, Del., were in the city Wednesday en route for the Silver Springs via the Oklawaha.

Miss Grace Replogle, who for some years past has occupied a position as stenographer in the office of F. H. Hafer in this city, left Wednesday morning for Miami, where she has accepted a position in the same branch of work.

Miss Mary Taylor, a popular teacher in the Methodist Sunday school, entertained her class at the home of Dr. H. R. Estes, on Oak street, last Thursday evening by giving a Sunday school party. All present report a nice time.

Mr. Fred G. Usilton, of Chester-town, Maryland, a representative of the Kent News, one of the leading journals of that state, was in the city last Friday. He left Saturday noon for a trip on the Oklawaha river before returning north.

Mrs. Geo. E. Welch and guest, Miss Virginia Phillips of Atlanta, Ga., returned Monday morning from a trip on the Oklawaha river to Silver Springs. Miss Phillips departs for her home this afternoon, after a very pleasant visit of two weeks in this city.

Chas. Sands, an attaché of the Palatka Telephone Company, is the inventor of a very novel can opener, and he has been granted a patent on the same. The young man has been offered large sums of money by several novelty manufacturing concerns for his idea, but he is not inclined to sell out just yet.

A surprise party was given at the home of Hon. B. P. Calhoun in the northern part of the city on Monday evening the event being in honor of the thirteenth birthday of Master Julian Calhoun. Quite a number of little folks were present, and the evening was an enjoyable one for all. Numerous games were played and refreshments served.

Mr. S. V. Warner and his daughter, Miss Carrie Warner Carter, arrived from New York on Tuesday evening and are guests of Dr. and Mrs. J. S. Crill. Miss Carter was the adopted daughter of the late Capt. Carter of Como, at which place she made her home for several years, and where she still owns a pretty home.

Many improvements are being made at the base ball park in the northwestern part of the city. All the scrubby brush and palmetto roots in the enclosure have been removed, the diamond leveled and the grandstand and fence repaired. The work has been done under the supervision of Manager P. M. Hagan. It is said the opening game in this city will be between the Lake City nine and a local team, which is soon to be organized composed mostly of last year's players, and a bang up battle with the sticks is anticipated.

The street railway will put on a car this week especially designed for excursions to the Heights. The car starts at 9:45 a. m. and 3:30 p. m., and at other times when required. On Sundays the car will start from the car house at 10:30 a. m. for the churches and return at the close of the Episcopal church service. During week days the time table will be made to suit the travel, and run strictly on schedule time. The present schedule is at 8 and 10:30 a. m. and 1:30 and 3:40 p. m. from car house. The cars and track are now in good order and Mr. Craig states that they will be kept so. Neat time cards have been issued for distribution among patrons.

Millinery Opening.

Miss Kate L. Lucas will give her annual Spring opening of Millinery and Fancy Goods on the following dates, Friday and Saturday, March 14th and 15th. A cordial invitation is extended to the ladies of Palatka and Putnam county to visit the store on the above dates.

Sacrifice Sale of Furniture.

I have bought the Furniture owned by Mrs. T. N. Smith and offer same for sale at a sacrifice. For prices call at my store Nos. 111 and 113 Lemon St. I. M. MEYER.

FOR SALE—One large mare, cheap for cash. Address S. R. ESTEP, Grandin, Fla.

FOR SALE—Buff leghorn chickens, the best laying fowl in the market. J. T. EBBERT, Palatka Heights.

28 latest photographs of yourself for 25 cents. Postpaid any part of U. S. Send photograph to copy from. CHAS. RANDALL STOCK CO., Atlanta, Ga.

WANTED—Bright men and women to represent us in each county and town in this state. Good pay and steady employment to right parties. SOUTHERN PUBLISHING CO., Room 215 West Bldg. Jacksonville, Fla.

Eggs for Hatching. Barred Plymouth Rock, no better anywhere, \$4.00 per setting. Write or call on CHAS. E. ROWTON, Palatka, Fla.

For Sale. Palms, the beautiful Japanese Fern Balls, Geraniums, Cala and Easter Lilies, Pansy plants with many desirable varieties, at the Palatka Greenhouse, near union depot.

By Mrs. C. B. Heston.

Learn to Write Well for 25 Cents.

A small mechanical device just invented by a Professor in Heidelberg, Germany, makes the poorest penman a splendid writer in a few days.

Endorsed by prominent College Presidents and Educators generally in Europe and America, and sent on receipt of 25 cents in coin or stamps. State whether for man, woman or child. Agents wanted on salary and commission.

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Butterick's Patterns

At ROWTON'S, Palatka, Fla.

FOR SALE.

An old established fruit and confectionery business, Corner stand No. 501 Lemon street. Address Postoffice box 252 Palatka, Florida, for particulars. mar 6-1m

FOR SALE.

Desirable residence property in Palatka, situated on the corner of River and Dodge Sts., two hundred feet square, river lots in front. Inquire of the owner, Mrs. J. Hallock Drake, 183rd St. and 3rd Ave. New York; or Henry Strunz, Palatka, Fla.

Funeral Directors and Embalmers.

Just arrived at F. A. Gerber & Sons

Full line of Go-Carts, Art Squares, Cabinet Hardware

And everything found in a first-class Furniture Store.

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Remember we carry The Celebrated O. K. Stoves and Ranges.

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